

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, UR (KARMEN, ROMAN)

SUBJECT: DOCUMENTARY FILM ON US

REF: STATE 035096

1. ON MAY 19 SOVEMB CULTURAL COUNSELOR SAKOVICH, ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM MOSCOW, RAISED WITH DEPT OFFS MATTER OF KARMEN'S DOCUMENTARY FILM PROJECT. HE SAID PROPOSAL WAS FOR KARMEN AND SIX OTHERS TO SPEND SIX WEEKS TRAVELING THROUGHOUT US TO MAKE FILM, PROBABLY STARTING IN COUPLE MONTHS, SO FILM COULD BE SHOWN THROUGHOUT USSR SUMMER 1976 AND KEYED TO BICENTENNIAL.

2. SAKOVICH SAID SOVIETS WERE WILLING TO PERMIT US SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OVER PRODUCTION AND CONTENT OF FILM. DEPT OFFS AGREED WITH SAKOVICH THAT, GIVEN PRESENT STATE OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS, KARMEN'S FILM WOULD BE A POSITIVE ONE. WITH RESPECT TO SAKOVICH'S STATEMENT THAT KARMEN WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT USG CONTROL OF FILM PRODUCTION, DEPT OFFS POINTED OUT THAT WE DO NOT HAVE SUCH A PRACTICE OR TRADITION IN US. DEPT COULD NOT ASSUME

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SUCH A FUNCTION. WE WERE, HOWEVER, INTERESTED IN

RECEIVING FROM SOVIETS ASSURANCE IN PRINCIPLE THAT AN AMERICAN FILM PRODUCER WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE COMPARABLE FILM ABOUT USSR AND THAT HE WOULD RECEIVE SAME KIND OF FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE WE WERE PREPARED TO RENDER HERE. WE HAD NOT RECEIVED SUCH ASSURANCES FROM MOSCOW (PARA 3 REFTEL). SAKOVICH SAID HIS INSTRUCTIONS FROM MOSCOW DID NOT TOUCH ON THIS MATTER.

3. SAKOVICH ASKED DEPARTMENT ON JUNE 5 WHETHER DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED ON KARMEN'S PROPOSED PROJECT. WE REPLIED THAT DEPARTMENT IN PRINCIPLE FAVORS PROJECT BUT REPEATED THAT WE NEED ASSURANCE IN PRINCIPLE THAT AN AMERICAN FILM PRODUCER COULD MAKE A SIMILAR FILM ABOUT USSR AND WOULD RECEIVE COMPARABLE TREATMENT THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO GRANT HERE. SAKOVICH SAID HE WOULD PASS OUR REPLY TO COMMITTEE ON CINEMATOGRAPHY.

4. EMBASSY REQUESTED AT ITS DISCRETION INFORM APPROPRIATE SOVIETS THAT DEPARTMENT IN PRINCIPLE FAVORS KARMEN'S PROPOSED PROJECT AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO AUTHORIZE HIM A VISA FOR THIS PURPOSE WHEN WE RECEIVE ASSURANCE THAT IN PRINCIPLE AN AMERICAN FILM PRODUCER COULD MAKE A SIMILAR FILM ABOUT USSR AND WOULD RECEIVE COMPARABLE TREATMENT THAT WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO GRANT HERE. KISSINGER

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